

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 39 October 2015

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SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

"The Pacific Environment—sustaining our livelihoods and natural
heritage in harmony with our cultures"

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Director's Note



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti

*Climate Change Division Director
SPREP*

Dear Readers,

Many exciting events have occurred since the last CCM. Firstly please join me in congratulating Mr Kosi Latu on his appointment to the role of Director General for SPREP. Kosi will take over the helm at the completion of a very successful term by the current Director General, Mr David Sheppard.

As we prepare for the 21st Conference of the Parties for the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) later this year, there has been much activity to assist the preparations of member countries to negotiate what the Pacific islands has called for - "an ambitious and legally binding agreement in Paris". You will read two articles of what has happened as we mobilise as a region and also what is on the horizon before the actual Conference of the Parties.

Also in this edition, the SPC GCCA PSIS project membership met for the last time in Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia to review the implementation of the project, and more importantly to exchange the lessons learnt during implementation of the project.

SPREP continues to support members to mainstream disaster risks in development planning and implementation as well as manage knowledge and information relevant to climate change which must continue as shown by the stories in this edition.

In addition to other interesting news items, this edition brings you the Climate Outlook for October 2015 – March 2016, as always we appreciate your feedback and ideas.

Finally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge Mr Carlo Iacovino for his extensive input and contributions to the CCM Carlo has during his tenure as Climate Change Communications Officer and has been part of a small team that brings you the Climate Change Matters Newsletter every month. We wish him all the best in the next chapter and new adventures life has in store for him.

'ofa atu,

Netatua

About Us

SPREP's Climate Change Division (CCD) is made up of three programmes:

1. Adaptation;
2. Mitigation;
3. Policy and Science.

The work of the CCD is directed by the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 based on the climate change priorities of SPREP Members and consistent with the *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015* (PIFACC) and other relevant and approved policy drivers such as the Pacific Plan and the Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Management.

SPREP's three (broad) climate change strategic priorities for 2011-2015 are:

1. Implementing adaptation measures;
2. Improving members' capacity, knowledge and understanding of climate change, and risk reduction;
3. Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction.

Please visit our website at: www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us

We kindly acknowledge the following donors and partners:





New Director-General of SPREP, Mr. Kosi Latu

Mr. Kosi Latu is the new Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), he will resume his new role in January next year. This was announced at the 26th SPREP Meeting of Officials which took place in Apia in late September.

For the full article: <http://pacificclimatechange.net/index.php/new/8691-new-director-general-of-sprep>



Mr. David Sheppard and Mr. Kosi Latu

SPREP leads special session on Climate Change for Pacific island leaders in Papua New Guinea

A special session for Leaders on Climate Change was organised by SPREP at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting in Papua New Guinea, the week of September 7th, 2015. The special session was chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Hon. Peter O'Neill, CMG and Chair of the 46th Pacific Islands Forum.

Since the early 1990's Leaders have reaffirmed that climate change remains an urgent and serious threat to sustainable development, security and poverty eradication in the Pacific, and for some countries their survival.

Recognising the urgency to act and the need for concerted effort by all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Leaders are again seeking the support of the international community to work with urgency and purpose to achieve an ambitious and legally binding agreement, applicable to all Parties, in December 2015 at the twenty first Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris.

Improved access to Climate Finance was one issue addressed in a statement made by H.E. Leiatua Dr. Kilifoti Eteuati, Samoa Ambassador-at-large for the Pacific who outlined that it is not clear what will be part of the Agreement and what will be part of supporting the COP decisions.

For more information, please contact Diane McFadzien, on dianem@sprep.org

High Level Support Mechanism prepares Pacific Ministers for COP

SPREP, in partnership with Climate Analytics will be providing support for Pacific Ministers and their senior officials to prepare for the upcoming 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. This event will take place in Samoa, from 4 to 6 November, where Ministers will be brought together in an attempt to ensure that they are well prepared for the COP21 which will take place in Paris, from November 30 to December 11 this year.

Paris is a pivotal meeting in the UN climate change negotiations as it is expected that governments will be adopting a new legally binding outcome to address climate change issues.

SPREP has been working closely with member countries this year to provide on-going support and technical advice to countries as they prepare for this historical event. Such support has been in the form of on-going briefings and negotiations training events, many of which have been supported by other partners such as Climate Analytics, Charles and Associates, and other Pacific CROP agencies.

For more information on the upcoming High Level Support Mechanism event, please contact dianem@sprep.org





Sustainable climate change adaptation measures highlighted at final Steering Committee Meeting for the regional meeting

Sixty-five participants from nine small Pacific Island countries and territories have joined development partners in September to review and share experiences from the implementation of the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Islands States (GCCA : PSIS) project.

The European Union funded initiative which is implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) hosted its fifth and final Planning and Steering Committee meeting in Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia.

In his opening address, the Governor of Yap State, Hon. Tony Ganngiyan, acknowledged the support provided by EU and SPC and thanked the delegates for “finding us here in Yap State, a state that does not hold many large meetings and conferences”.

The meeting provides represented Pacific Islands the opportunity to discuss outstanding activities before the project's completion in November 2016 and share innovative communications tools such as video clips, drama skits, demonstration booths and news broadcasts to present their project experiences

For more information please contact - ZhiyadK@spc.int



Charlene Mersai, Palau
Photo—Hivi Puheke

Outer Island' needs top climate change lessons learnt discussions at Pacific regional meeting

Delegations from nine Pacific small island states stressed the importance of considering the special needs of outer island communities in the planning and design of climate change adaptation projects at the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Islands States (GCCA: PSIS) project's lessons learnt meeting held in Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) 3-4 September, 2015.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the European Union (EU) hosted this important reflective consultation involving 70 participants from Pacific island states and other development partners.

For more information please contact - ZhiyadK@spc.int

For the full article: <http://pacificclimatechange.net/index.php/new/8695-outer-island-needs>



LL MR: Demonstration of Solar Disinfection (SODIS) technique- an effective, environmentally sustainable, low-cost solution for





Access to Good Climate Change Data and Information

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is working with the Griffith University, and three pilot countries, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu, to better enable climate change resilience and adaptation planning in the Pacific region by improving the ability of regional bodies and governments to discover, store, access and utilise climate change information and data.

The Pacific iCLIM project seeks to build on the Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP) enabling regional and national stakeholders to easily discover, store, and access climate change information and data for the region. This will enable Pacific countries to more easily utilise this information into their resilience and adaptation planning activities. The project will also assist SPREP in coordinating climate change information and data management efforts throughout the Pacific.



Her Excellency Sue Langford, High Commissioner of Australia to Samoa with Professor Brendan Mackey

By following key information management principles of effective data management, connecting data, data discoverability, and data reusability, the project will begin by conducting an e-infrastructure review and up-grade of the Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP). Other activities in the project include developing guidelines for regional information management protocols, developing climate change decision support tools software, information management training to key staff in the pilot countries, and producing awareness products.

For more information contact—Makelesig@sprep.org

Link to the article <http://pacificclimatechange.net/index.php/new/8697-access-to-good-climate-change-data-and-information>

Climate Finance the hot topic for the fifth Pacific Environment Forum

How to access more of the billions of dollars committed for climate change financing worldwide was one of discussions held at the Fifth Pacific Environment Forum in Apia which preceded the 26 SPREP Meeting.

Coordinated by SPREP the theme of this years' one day forum taking place before the SPREP General Meeting, is Climate Finance.

The Green Climate Fund, the long term financing mechanism for climate change has set itself a goal of raising USD 100 billion per year by 2020. The Adaptation Fund, another funding mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) achieved its goal of fundraising up to up USD 100 million by the end of 2013, with another target of USD 80 million per year for 2014 and 2015.

These are two of the Climate Financing mechanisms that are now in operation, established under the UNFCCC starting as far back as 2002 with the Special Climate Change Fund. Working to help SPREP members in obtaining more climate finance across the region, SPREP is accredited to both the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund as a Regional Implementing Entity – this allows SPREP to apply for projects of up to USD 50 million under the GCF and up to USD 10 million under the AF.



Ms. Marita Manley of GLZ addresses the Pacific Environment

Link to article <http://pacificclimatechange.net/index.php/new/8698-climate-finance-the-hot-topic>

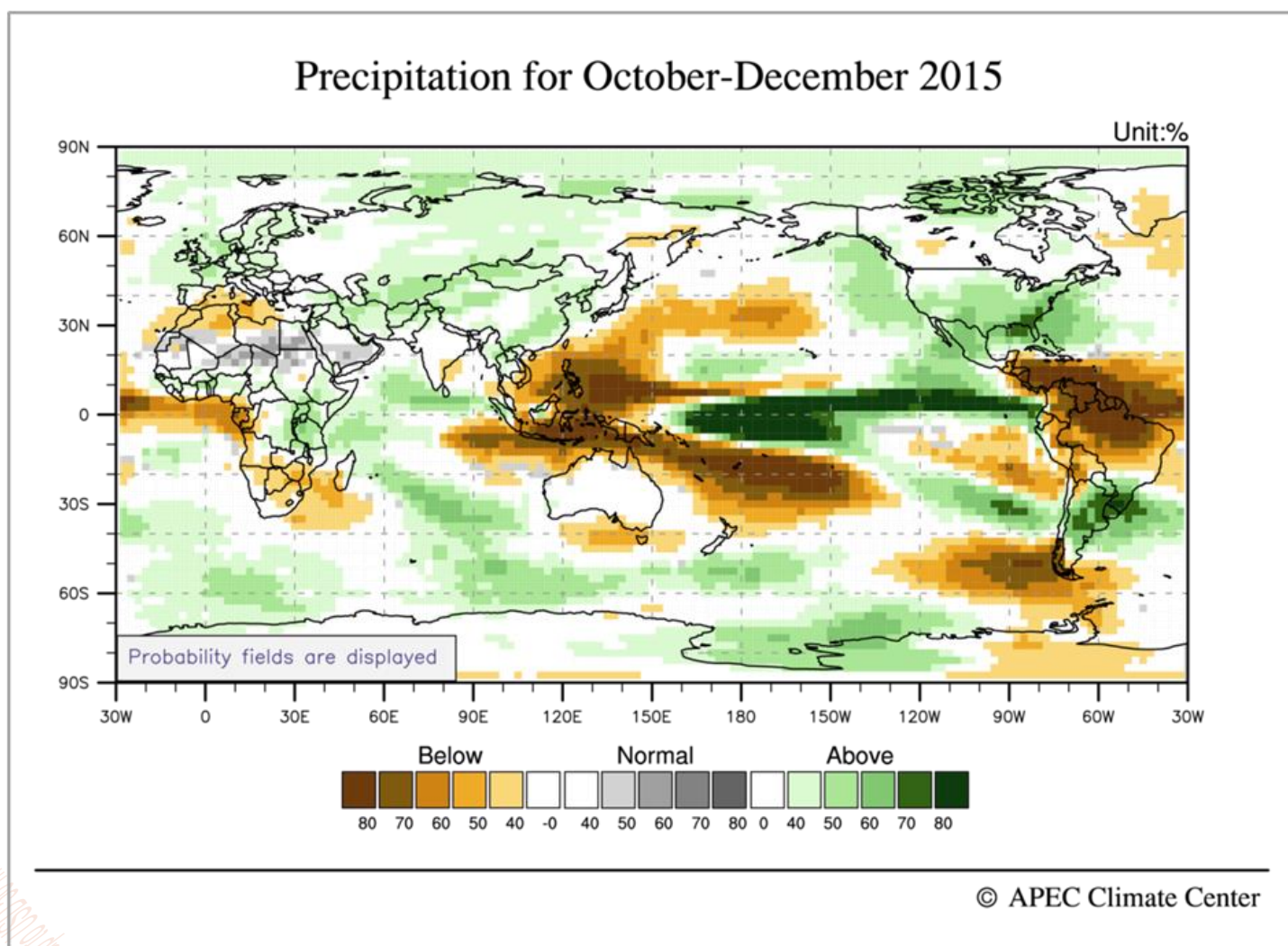




Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction (ROK-PI CLIPS) Project Climate Outlook for October 2015 - March 2016

Synthesis of the latest model forecasts for October 2015 to March 2016 (ONDJFM) at the APEC Climate Center (APCC), located at Busan, Korea, indicates persistent positive temperature anomaly across the tropical Pacific consistent with the strengthening El Niño.

The forecasts for October-November-December (OND) 2015 show the positive temperature anomalies to prevail over the globe. Above normal rainfalls are highly probable in the equatorial Pacific, while below normal precipitation is expected over the eastern maritime continent and adjacent seas, Central and northern South Americas.



The forecasts for January-February-March (JFM) 2016 suggest persistence of the El Niño episode with a belt of above-normal rainfall in the equatorial Pacific surrounded by the areas of below normal precipitation.

For more information please contact -sunnys@sprep.org





2015 Climate Change Division Monthly Calendar

October

Activity	Date	Who	Where
CCCPIR Steering Committee	05 – 06 Oct	Espen	Suva, Fiji
Regional Ocean Acidification Workshop	06 – 09 Oct	Kosi, Netatua, Tommy, Nanette, Warren, Mike	Auck, NZ
EU/GIZ ACSE Steering Committee	07 – 09 Oct	Espen	Suva, Fiji
Fiji Negotiations Training	08 – 09 Oct	Espen, Diane	Suva, Fiji
1 st Pacific Climate Outlook Forum	12 – 16 Oct	Netatua, Salesa, Sunny, Christina, Azarel, Henry (WMO)	Suva, Fiji
Vanuatu Negotiations Training	12 – 16 Oct	Espen, Diane	Vanuatu
COSPac Steering Committee Meeting	19 – 21 Oct	Netatua, Salesa, Tommy	Suva, Fiji
Global Open Knowledge Hub Meeting	21 – 23 Oct	Makelesi, Billy	Brighton, UK
Disasters Managers Meeting	26 – 27 Oct	Tommy	Suva, Fiji
Pacific Regional Disaster Resilience Meeting and Pacific Humanitarian Partnership Meeting (UNOCHA, UNISDR, SPC)	26 – 29 Oct	Satui	Suva, Fiji
ACP Meeting on Preparation for COP 21	28 – 29 Oct	Diane	Belgium
WMO Forum for the RA-V Region	28 – 30 Oct	Tommy, Sunny, Salesa	Suva, Fiji

